

Memphis Parking Meters Executive Summary

The City of Memphis is embarking on a new era of parking management in the downtown and Medical Center district. By the first week in December, 485 new single space parking meters and 135 multi- space parking kiosks will be available for on-street public use. The purpose of the parking management program is to help insure that short term on-street parking is available and convenient.

Two years ago it was recognized that the current parking meters were requiring excessive maintenance and replacements were necessary for broken or missing meters. With Memphis City Council approval, the City Engineering Division has moved forward with acquiring the new equipment. The successful vendor was the team of Parkeon and IPS, Inc. They submitted one of six proposals resulting from a Request for Proposal process that took place last year. Memphis has signed a five-year lease purchase agreement to finance the project for a cost of \$1,630,500.

This new technology allows citizens to use U.S. coins for payment as they always have been able to and adds the convenience of being able to pay with MasterCard and Visa branded credit cards and debit cards.

The new parking meters are very easy to use. The multi-space meter is a kiosk style machine that can serve multiple parking spaces. The single meter covers only one parking space. With either type of meter the citizen can add coins until the desired amount of time is shown on the meter. With the new equipment, a citizen also has the option to insert a credit or debit card and with a few pushes of a button determine how much time they want to park.

The major difference from the current system is that the multi-space parking kiosk will dispense a receipt for the driver to place inside the vehicle on the curbside dashboard in a visible location. This is called a Pay and Display system and is used by many major cities and some local private parking lots.

There will be a minimum meter purchase of 50 cents. The current parking meter rate is 50 cents for a half hour and \$1.00 for an hour. The Engineering Division will monitor usage. Per City ordinance, rates can be increased in high traffic areas to encourage the availability of on-street parking or decreased in the low-usage areas to make on-street parking more attractive. Most meters will allow for up to a two hour stay. In some areas where high turnover is desired, the maximum stay may be as little as 30 minutes.

Parking fees and enforcement times currently are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will not immediately change with the new parking system.

Next week our contractor will start installing the new meters with the full complement expected to be in service by December 2, 2013.

Today we launch a public information campaign to educate our citizens on the new parking meters. We have scheduled a news conference later today to announce the installation of the new parking system and show the media how to use the new meters. In the next few weeks you will see Meter Greeters in downtown Memphis assisting citizens that may have questions about how to use the meters. They will be easily identifiable with attire that has the City of Memphis Logo and says Meter Greeter.

We are creating a web page that will display instructional videos on how to use the parking meters and educate citizens through traditional media and social media.

Further information:

City Traffic Engineering 901-636-6710

www.memphistn.gov/parkingmeters